



**United States Attorney's Office
Eastern District of Michigan**

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PRESS RELEASE

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ARMED CRACK DEALER SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN PRISON

Ervin Toliver, 32, of Romulus, was sentenced today to 10 years in prison on felony drug trafficking and firearms charges, United States Attorney Barbara L. McQuade announced. Joining in the announcement was Special Agent in Charge Thomas E. Brandon, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

Toliver was sentenced by United States District Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff after pleading guilty in March 2010 to being a felon in possession of a firearm and possessing with intent to distribute more than 5 grams of crack cocaine.

The charges arose following a traffic stop made by Ypsilanti Police on September 16, 2009. Toliver was in possession of over 9 grams of crack cocaine, and had hidden a loaded, stolen handgun under the hood of his car. His history of drug trafficking includes a 1998 federal conviction for conspiracy with intent to distribute crack cocaine, followed by two subsequent convictions for possession of crack cocaine. He was on probation when he committed the instant offense.

Ypsilanti Police referred this case to ATF and the United States Attorney's Office for federal prosecution under the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative. Citizens with information concerning illegal guns, gangs with guns, armed drug trafficking or the trafficking of illegal guns are encouraged to call 1-800-ATF-GUNS. Callers can remain anonymous.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Erin Shaw.